

corrected when Zola thought of giving the letter a wider publicity by issuing it in a newspaper. A Radical journal called "L'Aurore," established in 1896 by M. Ernest Vaughan, previously one of the coadjutors of Henri Bochefort, had already taken up the cause of Dreyfus in a very courageous manner. Zola therefore offered his letter to M. Vaughan, who at once decided to publish it; and though it was also printed as a pamphlet it was never offered for sale in the latter form.¹ It appeared in "L'Aurore" on the morning of January 13, 1898, with the following heading — what ^French journalists call technically a *manchette* — in bold type: "J'Accuse . . . !" The idea was M. Vaughan's, and though the proper title, "A Letter to the President of the Republic from J. Zola," was duly given, it was as "J'Accuse" ("I Accuse") that the letter became known all over the world.

It was a powerful piece of writing; those who only knew the Affair by what appeared on the surface judged it at the time to be too violent, excessive, but it was fully justified by subsequent events and discoveries. After expressing solicitude for M. Félix Faure and his presidency, on which so much mud had been cast by the Affair and its abominations, and setting forth that a court-martial had just dared to acquit, by order, an Esterhazy, a supreme blow to all truth and justice, Zola declared that on his side he

would dare to
do something, that is speak the truth, as he did
not wish to
be a tacit accomplice, for in that case Ms nights
would be
haunted by the spectre of an innocent man who
was expi-
ating beyond the seas, in frightful torture, a
crime he had

¹ Zola says in "La Yerite' en Marche " that the pamphlets remained ware-
housed. The writer believes that they were ultimately destroyed.